

[From the Times and Democrat, Jan. 27, 2009]

AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM DIES AT 94
(By Lee Tant)

It is hard, if not impossible, to describe the life of Orangeburg icon Austin Cunningham. Cunningham, who died Monday at the age of 94, was a community leader, businessman, writer, lawyer, soldier and citizen of the year.

He was the definition of a Renaissance man.

His lifetime spanned 18 presidents, 11 recessions, two world wars and the civil rights movement.

Cunningham was the leader of five companies and in 1998 was named Outstanding Elder Citizen of the Year for South Carolina.

A decade later, he was named the Kiwanis Club of Orangeburg's Citizen of the Year. He also was honored with the Order of the Palmetto.

Cunningham was involved with nearly everything in the Orangeburg community. He was constantly willing to be out front in volunteering and promoting community involvement.

During the 1970s, Cunningham made business trips to Denmark and Manning while an executive at the Sunbeam Outdoor Co. It was then he first became interested in Orangeburg. When the company relocated its executive headquarters to Santee in 1974, Cunningham and his family moved with it.

He said his new home was like an "island" because its residents had to drive at least 50 miles to reach Columbia or Charleston.

The man who once called cities such as Chicago and New York home quickly became involved in the community. He joined what was then the Greater Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce, attended First Presbyterian Church, and was active in the local Republican Party.

He retired from Sunbeam to open a Burger King restaurant on John C. Calhoun Drive in 1975.

Cunningham accepted the chairmanship of the Orangeburg Regional Hospital's major gifts division four years later. His work was instrumental in procuring the funding to build the Regional Medical Center.

Cunningham also became a tireless advocate of the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit program during the summer of 1983. The program provided a tax credit for employers who hired underprivileged teenagers.

During that time, Cunningham served as chairman of the local Economic Recovery Committee.

To market the program in Orangeburg, Cunningham illustrated how it not only made good financial sense but also helped the community.

"Your reward is two-fold. You'll get a good worker for jobs you want them to do. And when you go to pay your federal businesses taxes next year, you'll get back 85 percent of what you paid out," he said to encourage local employers.

In the spring of 1984, President Ronald Reagan invited Cunningham to the White House to honor his efforts in promoting the program.

Reagan lauded Cunningham and credited him with fostering partnerships with 77 local businesses that gave 264 jobs to teenagers in poverty.

"For most of these 16- and 17-year-olds, it was their first real job. Now that's partnership in action, and everybody is better off because of it," Reagan said.

A July 1983 T&D editorial described Cunningham as "a one-man crusade" that informed the community about the program's merits. It also noted he was dubbed "Mr. TJTC" by the head of the State Employment Security Commission back then.

However, Cunningham didn't want all the attention and refused to take credit for it.

He insisted the real heroes were the businesses that hired the young workers.

He said the success of the program in Orangeburg boded well for industry and race relations here.

"It's made Orangeburg a better community than it was 10 weeks ago," Cunningham said after the program concluded its first summer.

He served on the People's Assault on Drugs Committee in the 1990s.

Cunningham was also behind getting 132 streetlights installed in New Brookland as part of efforts by the People's Assault on Drugs. He said then that drug dealers were relegated to hanging back in the shadows.

"They can't stand out in the streets anymore. They are not aggressively stopping people and vying with each other," he said.

Additionally, Cunningham was a patron of the arts.

After hearing the South Carolina State University Choir, he realized how good it was and, he spearheaded the choir's partnership with the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra. This led to an annual concert series in Orangeburg.

S.C. State awarded him its Distinguished Service Award at the 1995 Founder's Day festivities.

When he was named the "Outstanding Older South Carolinian" of the year by the state Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Aging in 1998, Cunningham used the honor to make a push for funding county councils on aging. The annual Elder Hop event on New Year's Day in Orangeburg was his brainchild as a fundraiser for the Meals on Wheels program.

Born in Washington, he lost his journalist father at age 12. Cunningham went to work in the U.S. Supreme Court as a page at age 14 and subsequently worked under J. Edgar Hoover at the FBI. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He lost two brothers in the war.

After earning a law degree from the University of Virginia, he did advanced studies at the University of Chicago and Oxford University.

He married his late wife Jacqueline in 1946. An infant son, Paul, died in 1954.

He is survived by two daughters, Manhattan psychotherapist Kathryn Janus (wife of Jeffrey Janus), magazine journalist Amy Cunningham of Brooklyn (wife of Steven Waldman), son Austin Cunningham III, a business owner residing in Swansea, and two school-aged grandsons Joseph and Gordon Waldman of Brooklyn. His younger sister, Mrs. Clotilde Luce, at age 88, still works at New York City's renowned Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre.

As a longtime author of articles for The Times and Democrat and other publications, Cunningham wrote from his vast repertoire of life experiences. He offered insight on historical figures from George Washington and Abe Lincoln to Bill Clinton. He spent a weekend in a state prison, at his own request, gathering material to provide insight on life behind bars.

Most recently, Cunningham was the subject of a story about his experience as an usher on the podium at Franklin Roosevelt's presidential inauguration in 1933.

Also, he was honored this past week by the Orangeburg County Community of Character initiative. The board of directors voted to create the Austin Cunningham Orangeburg County Community of Character award. It will be given once a year to worthy citizens who exemplify the character traits that make their communities better places to live, work and play.

A memorial service for Cunningham will be held at noon Friday at First Presbyterian

Church in Orangeburg. The family will receive visitors from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Dukes-Harley Funeral Home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would have voted "Aye" on both H. Res. 31 expressing support for the designation of a National Data Privacy Awareness Day, and H. Res. 84, honoring the heroic action of the individuals involved with the rescue effort of U.S. Airways Flight 1549.

Our office holds a twice yearly event, the Paying for College Workshop, to provide high school seniors and their parents options for financing a college education. We invite the Sallie Mae Foundation to join us and they have given out dozens of scholarships over the years. Last night we had over 200 people attend the Workshop at Milby High School in our district, and Sallie Mae provided a \$500 scholarship. We had to schedule the event before the 2009 voting schedule was finalized and for that reason I was not able to be in Washington for the two votes last night.

I would have supported both resolutions that were voted on last night, and was a cosponsor of H. Res. 31. People are increasingly using electronic communications in all walks of life—from social networking to e-commerce, more and more personal information is being compiled by online sites. While we have realized incredible efficiencies and other benefits from new electronic technologies, those technologies have also raised significant challenges for protecting the privacy of personal and proprietary information. H. Res. 31 would designate January 28 as National Data Privacy Day to raise awareness and educate people on safe practices when submitting personal information online.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE SHAIN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, there are all kinds of public servants in our communities, but we seldom think first of journalists in that category. In the Eighth Congressional District of Southern Missouri, a journalist springs to mind as a public servant: Mike Shain of KFVS in Cape Girardeau. Mr. Shain is retiring after 53 years in the news businesses (the last 37 at KFVS), and I want to commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives for his long labors in the service of our region, our State and our Nation.

Though the craft of news reporting has changed greatly in the time Mr. Shain has spent in the business, his fair reporting, his work ethic, and his professionalism have remained constant. Everyone who has looked at Mr. Shain over a microphone or across a table on the set of his weekly news magazine knows they have better done their homework. Mr. Shain takes preparedness to another

level—he knows his subject matter and his audience inside-out.

Whole generations in Southeast Missouri have grown up with the informed voice of Mr. Shain in their ears. He has not only conveyed to us the news of the day, but he has also placed that news in context for his viewership. He has told us what is important as well as why. He has always had something important to say, which is a tough thing to do when most of your sentences end in a question mark. Still, Mr. Shain has been so successful and is so respected because his intellect is only surpassed by his understanding of the news media and its responsibilities to the public.

In service to the public, Mr. Shain has shaped minds and informed opinions among an electorate in Southern Missouri which is serious about its civic duty, patriotic obligations and the wellbeing of its neighbors. His name is synonymous with the news—with what is current and worth understanding. As much as the station that broadcasts him, Mike Shain is an institution.

Even though regular viewers of our evening news will no longer see Mr. Shain every day, his presence will continue to be seen and heard in the generations of newsmen and newswomen who have learned their craft from him. Mr. Shain's voice will be missed across the Heartland, but his legacy will endure. I'm proud to have known and worked with Mr. Shain, and I am glad to thank him on behalf of the entire Eighth Congressional District of the State of Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE FOWLER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Fowler of the McSweeney Regional Senior Center who will be retiring after a decade of service to the seniors of eastern Connecticut.

Rose is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly in the town of Coventry, Connecticut. She has been a familiar face in local politics, serving as chair of the town council and as the moderator on Election Day. Rose actively volunteers her time with a host of community organizations, including the town's historical society. She and her husband Joseph also own and operate the Country Store that is located on Main Street.

Rose is best known to the people of eastern Connecticut for her work at the McSweeney Regional Senior Center. For nearly thirty years, the center has provided services to the residents of ten area communities. They offer extensive preventive care programs, including a number of health screenings and support groups. There are also a variety of social programs which have helped to foster a family atmosphere among the participants. From exercise classes to arts and crafts and a variety of trips, the seniors at McSweeney Regional Senior Center have truly found a second home. These activities have fostered a true sense of companionship and enjoyment for all who participate and are indicative of the warmth and friendship that Rose brings to work each and every day.

Even though I want to congratulate Rose on her well deserved retirement, I admit that I am

saddened by this event. While the McSweeney Senior Center will continue its tradition of quality service and support for the region's seniors, it will be difficult to match the legacy that Rose has left behind. I know that I will miss our discussions and interactions when I visit with the seniors and that I will not be alone in this regard. I wish Rose the best as she begins the next journey in her life and remain confident that whatever she does, she will continue her legacy of service to the seniors and people of eastern Connecticut.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, YEAR OF THE BUFFALO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2009, Year of the Buffalo. As the Vietnamese community in Greater Cleveland gathers at St. Helena Catholic Church to celebrate, I join them in celebration of their rich history and culture.

Tet is the time of the year to pay homage to ancestors, reconnect with friends and family and celebrate every hope and possibility rising with the new year. This year's gathering will once again honor community volunteers and leaders, showcasing many Vietnamese cultural treasures including Vietnamese culinary cuisine, music and dance.

2009 also marks thirty-four years of service to the community by the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc. This organization has been an invaluable resource for hundreds of Clevelanders of Vietnamese descent, linking them to needed resources and preserving the rich heritage of the Vietnamese people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Le Nguyen, President of the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., and every member, past and present, for their dedication to Vietnamese-Americans of Northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, Tet 2009: Year of the Buffalo. May every American of Vietnamese heritage hold memories of their past forever in their hearts, and find peace and happiness within every new day of the rising new year.

THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the recent 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

Citing the constitutional right to privacy, the decision recognized women's equal standing with men to make decisions about their own bodies, and constituted a landmark step forward in the ongoing fight for gender equality.

Roe has advanced both the health care and human rights of women throughout America. It stands for the simple premise that government should not, and cannot, tell a person what to do with his or her own body.

As a proud cosponsor of the Prevention First Act, I certainly recognize that the term "pro-choice" is not synonymous with "pro-abortion."

Instead, to me, the right to choose is the right of a woman to make her own decisions about her health and future, free of coercion, based on medically-accurate information, and with access to all reproductive health options.

Roe has provided us a legal foundation upon which to build a framework of reproductive health options for women. Our responsibility, as we celebrate the decision's anniversary, is to make sure we honor the tradition of that decision by assuring that women and families throughout this great country have access to family planning and reproductive health options so that never again do women have to retreat to alleyways and dark corners to receive proper medical care.

Madam Speaker, January 22, 1973 marks a landmark day in our nation's constitutional history—for women, for health, and for individual liberty.

DISAPPROVAL OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, Our nation's economy continues to be challenged by tight credit markets and the long-term unwinding of the housing bubble. In light of the serious economic situation, I am voting against H.J. Res. 3 which involves the second half of the funds for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) for three reasons:

The first reason is that the economy is in truly terrible shape. During 2008, the economy lost 2.6 million jobs, with more than 1 million jobs lost in the last two months alone. Economists now project that the unemployment rate might rise to over ten percent in the coming year. Congress needs to do what it can to respond to the situation. When Congress initially authorized the TARP funds in late September the crisis in the financial markets had not hit main street business across the country. Today as we consider releasing the second half of the TARP funds, the circumstances that compelled that response last fall are even more dire.

The second reason for my opposition to the resolution of disapproval is based upon a belief that the second half of TARP funds will be used more strategically and effectively. Simply put, appointees of the Bush administration that oversaw the flawed administration of the program are no longer in charge of its operation. We have a new President and economic team that will need all of the presently available tools and more to address our cratering economy. The Obama administration has committed to get credit flowing to families and businesses while launching a sweeping effort